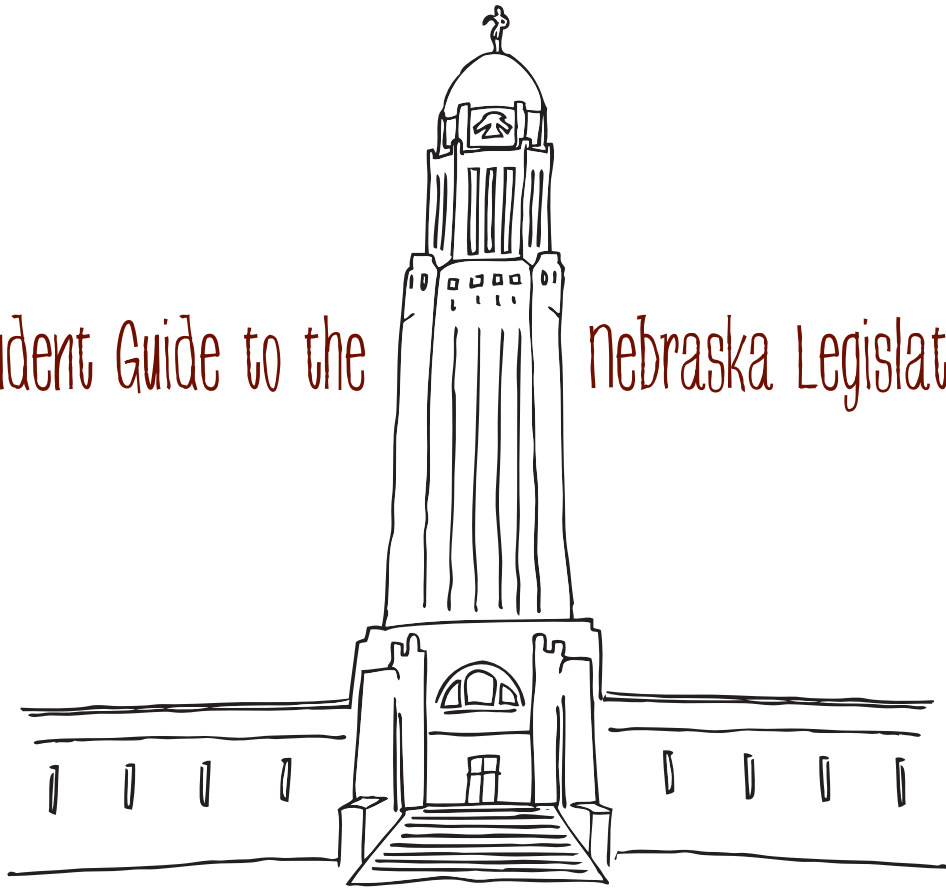


# A Student Guide to the Nebraska Legislature



Can be used in conjunction with the Unicam Kids  
web site [www.NebraskaLegislature.gov/uk](http://www.NebraskaLegislature.gov/uk)

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# History of the Unicameral.....

Nebraska’s Legislature is one-of-a-kind among all the state legislatures in the United States of America. The Nebraska Legislature is made up of one legislative house called a **unicameral**. All other states have legislatures made of two houses, or **bicameral** legislatures. Nebraska was the same for much of its history. For 67 years, Nebraska had a bicameral legislature, which contained a **senate** and a **house of representatives**. That changed in 1934 when Nebraskans voted to make their legislature a unicameral system.

## Senator George Norris

U.S. Senator George Norris is known as the **founder of the Unicameral** because he led the effort to change Nebraska’s bicameral legislature into a unicameral legislature. Norris, who lived in McCook, wore out two sets of automobile tires driving across Nebraska campaigning to change the Legislature. Norris said having a two-house legislature was outdated, inefficient and unnecessary. He said having a one-house legislature not only would be more efficient, but it also would cost less and make the legislative branch more open to citizens.



Sen. George Norris

## Checks and balances

Not everyone was in favor of changing the Nebraska Legislature to a unicameral system. Opponents said that with only one house, there would be fewer safeguards to prevent the Legislature from hastily passing laws. However, Norris said there would be plenty of other checks and balances in the unicameral system to prevent this. Norris argued that the Nebraska Supreme Court would still issue rulings on laws passed by the Legislature, and the governor would still be able to **veto** bills, or reject bills, so that they do not become law.

More importantly, Norris said, citizens would have the right to vote for members of the Legislature and to place issues on the ballot for state elections. Also, the Unicameral would have easy-to-follow rules and allow greater access to the news media so the public would be more aware of the Legislature’s activities.

No Political Parties

Besides being the country’s only unicameral, the Nebraska Legislature also is unique because it is the only **nonpartisan** state legislature in the country. When candidates run for the Nebraska Legislature, the political party to which they belong is not listed on the election ballot. Norris worked to eliminate partisanship in the Legislature because he believed nonpartisanship would allow lawmakers to base their actions on their own beliefs, rather than according to party beliefs.

No Conference Committee

In a bicameral legislature, a bill must be introduced and passed in both houses in order for it to become law. However, sometimes the version of the bill that is introduced in one house is different from the version introduced in the other house. When this happens, bicameral legislatures rely on **conference committees** to work out the differences between the two versions of the bill. Conference committees are made up of members from both houses of a bicameral legislature.

Norris opposed conference committees because he said they often did their business in secret. In Nebraska’s old two-house legislature, once a bill came out of the conference committee, it could not be changed; it could only be approved or rejected. Sometimes, Norris said, the bill that came out of a conference committee did not resemble either version of the original proposal. Norris argued that a unicameral legislature would eliminate the need for the conference committee.

Immediate Results

Nebraska saw immediate results in both cost and efficiency after citizens voted to replace its bicameral legislature with a unicameral. The number of legislators went from 133 in the two-house system to 43 in the unicameral system—nearly a 70 percent reduction. The last bicameral session in 1935 ran 110 days, passed 192 bills and cost \$202,593. The first unicameral session two years later ran 98 days, passed 214 bills and cost \$103,445.

Nebraska Legislature Facts

- How many hours must you attend school?
- On which side of the road should you ride your bicycle?
- Is your cat or dog required to have shots for rabies?

The answers to these questions are determined by rules that people must follow, or laws. These rules are created by lawmakers in the Nebraska Legislature who are called senators. They make laws only for the state of Nebraska.

- There are 49 senators in the Nebraska Legislature. Each senator represents one district that has about 35,000 people living in it. You live in one of these 49 districts.
- Senators are elected by citizens and serve four-year terms. About half of the Legislature is up for election or re-election every two years. To be a state senator, you must be at least 21 years old, have lived in your district for one year and be a registered voter.
- The Nebraska Legislature is a citizen legislature, which means most of its members have other jobs in addition to serving as a state senator. Senators receive \$12,000 a year for serving in the Legislature.
- Our Legislature meets once each year in a **regular session**. The regular session in odd-numbered years lasts 90 days and the regular session in even-numbered years lasts 60 days. These legislative sessions begin at 10 a.m. on the first Wednesday following the first Monday in January.
- Sometimes, senators are called back to the Capitol in Lincoln for a **special session**. The governor is given the power to call special sessions between regular sessions in order to handle emergencies.

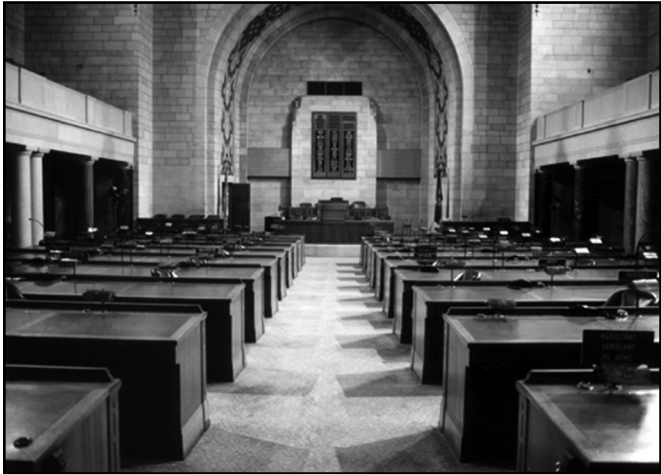


- The Legislature has committees, or small groups of senators, that review proposed laws and study issues. Every bill introduced in the Legislature has a **public hearing** in committee. Public hearings give citizens and others the chance to present their opinions about proposed laws. Those opinions help senators decide whether laws should be passed and, if so, what the laws should say.
- There are 14 **standing committees** that meet regularly during session. These standing committees take action on bills presented to them. There also are **select committees** and **special committees** that handle issues not covered by standing committees.
- When you visit the legislative chamber in the State Capitol, among the people you will see are the **lieutenant governor**, the **Clerk of the Legislature**, and the **sergeant-at-arms**.
- The lieutenant governor serves as president of the Legislature and presides over daily legislative activity.
- The Clerk of the Legislature is responsible for recording what actions the Legislature takes, counting votes and administrative tasks.
- The sergeant-at-arms and assistants, commonly called **red coats** because they wear red jackets, are responsible for security on the floor of the Legislature and at public hearings during the session.

Like you, visitors from all over the world come to Nebraska to see the Unicameral Legislature and find out how it works. Other states have considered changing to a one-house legislature, but none have done so. As a Nebraskan, you are unique because of the Unicameral Legislature and its influence on your life. You can get involved by speaking or writing to your senator, testifying at a public hearing or receiving information about the legislative process or a specific bill.

Fun Facts	
▶	Sixty-two women have served in the Legislature since 1867, when Nebraska became a state. Nine women served in Nebraska’s early bicameral legislature, and 53 women have served in the Unicameral.
▶	The first woman in the Unicameral Legislature was <b>Nell Krause</b> of Albion. She was appointed in 1946. The first woman elected to the Unicameral was <b>Kathleen A. Foote</b> of Axtell, who began her service in 1955.
▶	<b>Dr. Matthew O. Ricketts</b> was the first African-American to serve in the Nebraska Legislature. He served from 1893 to 1897.
▶	The first African-American women were elected in 2008. The distinction was shared by <b>Tanya Cook</b> and <b>Brenda Council</b> , both of Omaha.

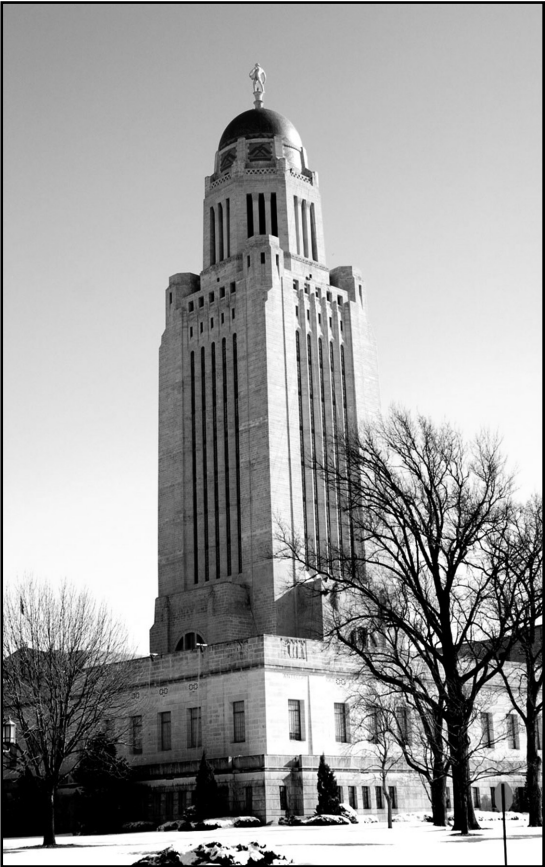
# Sights from the Capitol.....



the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber (the room where the Legislature meets)



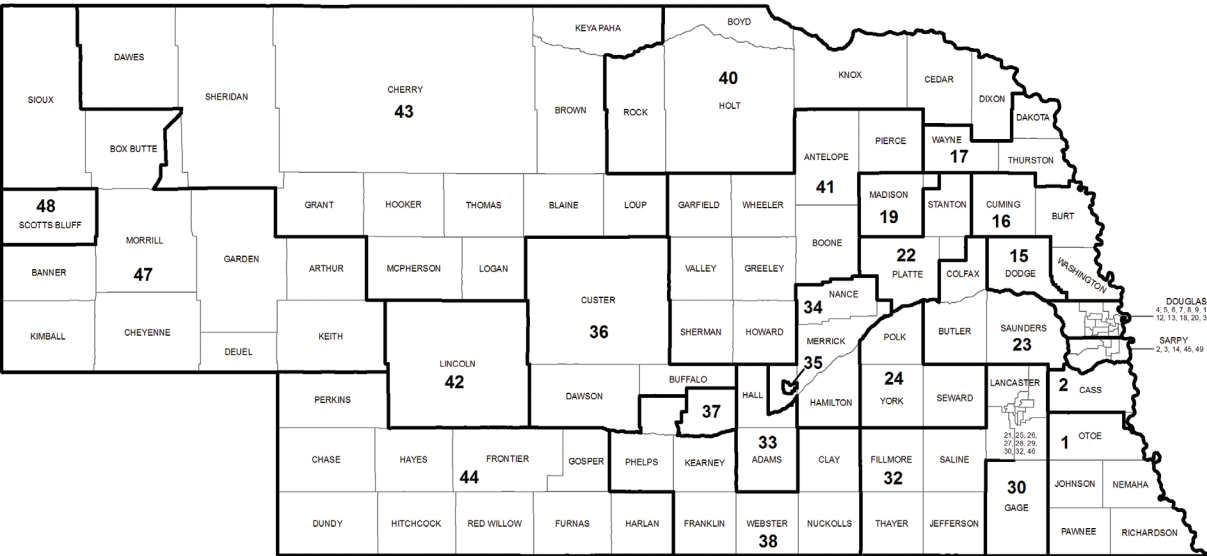
a committee hearing room



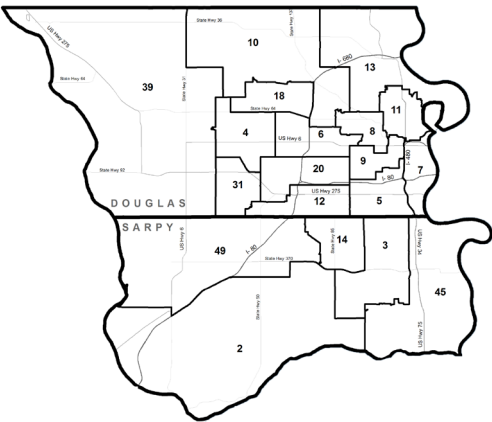
the State Capitol Building



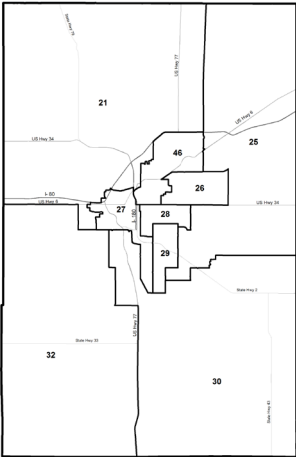
# Which District Do You Live In?



## Omaha Metro Districts



## Lincoln Districts



# Who is Your Senator?



District 1  
Sen. Lavon Heidemann  
Elk Creek  
Farmer



District 2  
Sen. R. Paul Lambert  
Plattsmouth  
Auto Sales Consultant



District 3  
Sen. Scott Price  
Bellevue  
Retired Military



District 4  
Sen. Pete Pirsch  
Omaha  
Attorney



District 5  
Sen. Heath Mello  
Omaha  
Community Development  
Specialist



District 6  
Sen. John Nelson  
Omaha  
Attorney



District 7  
Sen. Jeremiah Nordquist  
Omaha  
State Senator



District 8  
Sen. Burke Harr  
Omaha  
Attorney



District 9  
Sen. Gwen Howard  
Omaha  
Social Worker



District 10  
Sen. Bob Krist  
Omaha  
Contract Manager



District 11  
Sen. Brenda Council  
Omaha  
Attorney



District 12  
Sen. Steve Lathrop  
Omaha  
Attorney



District 13  
Sen. Tanya Cook  
Omaha  
Communications  
Agency President



District 14  
Sen. Jim Smith  
Papillion  
Manager/Business  
Owner



District 15  
Sen. Charlie Janssen  
Fremont  
Medical Staffing  
Agency Chair/CEO



District 16  
Sen. Lydia Brasch  
Bancroft  
Farmer/Business Owner



District 17  
Sen. Dave Bloomfield  
Hoskins  
Retired



District 18  
Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh  
Omaha  
Attorney



District 19  
Sen. Mike Flood  
Norfolk  
Broadcaster/Attorney



District 20  
Sen. Brad Ashford  
Omaha  
Businessman/Attorney



District 21  
Sen. Ken Haar  
Malcolm  
Software Company  
CEO and President



District 22  
Sen. Paul Schumacher  
Columbus  
Attorney/Business Owner



District 23  
Sen. Chris Langemeier  
Schuyler  
Real Estate Broker/Real  
Estate Appraiser



District 24  
Sen. Greg Adams  
York  
Retired Teacher



District 25  
Sen. Kathy Campbell  
Lincoln  
Children Services  
Nonprofit Executive  
Vice President



District 26  
Sen. Amanda McGill  
Lincoln  
Program Advocacy  
Director, YWCA



District 27  
Sen. Colby Coash  
Lincoln  
Disability Services  
Agency Staff  
Development Director



District 28  
Sen. Bill Avery  
Lincoln  
Retired Professor



District 29  
Sen. Tony Fulton  
Lincoln  
CEO/Professional  
Engineer



District 30  
Sen. Norman Wallman  
Cortland  
Farmer/Agribusinessman



District 31  
Sen. Rich Pahls  
Omaha  
Retired Principal



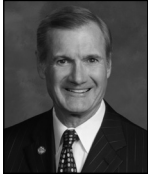
District 32  
Sen. Russ Karpisek  
Wilber  
Resource Development/  
Marketing Director



District 33  
Sen. Les Seiler  
Hastings  
Attorney



District 34  
Sen. Annette Dubas  
Fullerton  
Farmer/Rancher



District 35  
Sen. Mike Gloor  
Grand Island  
Retired Hospital  
CEO



District 36  
Sen. John Wightman  
Lexington  
Attorney



District 37  
Sen. Galen Hadley  
Kearney  
Professor



District 38  
Sen. Tom Carlson  
Holdrege  
Financial Advisor



District 39  
Sen. Beau McCoy  
Omaha  
Home Improvement  
Contractor/Business  
Owner



District 40  
Sen. Tyson Larson  
O'Neill  
Rancher/Businessman



District 41  
Sen. Kate Sullivan  
Cedar Rapids  
Banker/Bank Board of  
Directors



District 42  
Sen. Thomas Hansen  
North Platte  
Rancher



District 43  
Sen. Deb Fischer  
Valentine  
Rancher



District 44  
Sen. Mark Christensen  
Imperial  
Commodity Broker/  
Landowner



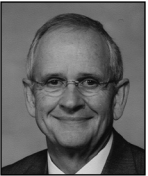
District 45  
Sen. Abbie Cornett  
Bellevue  
Retired Police Officer



District 46  
Sen. Danielle Conrad  
Lincoln  
Attorney



District 47  
Sen. Ken Schilz  
Ogallala  
Cattle Feeder/Farmer

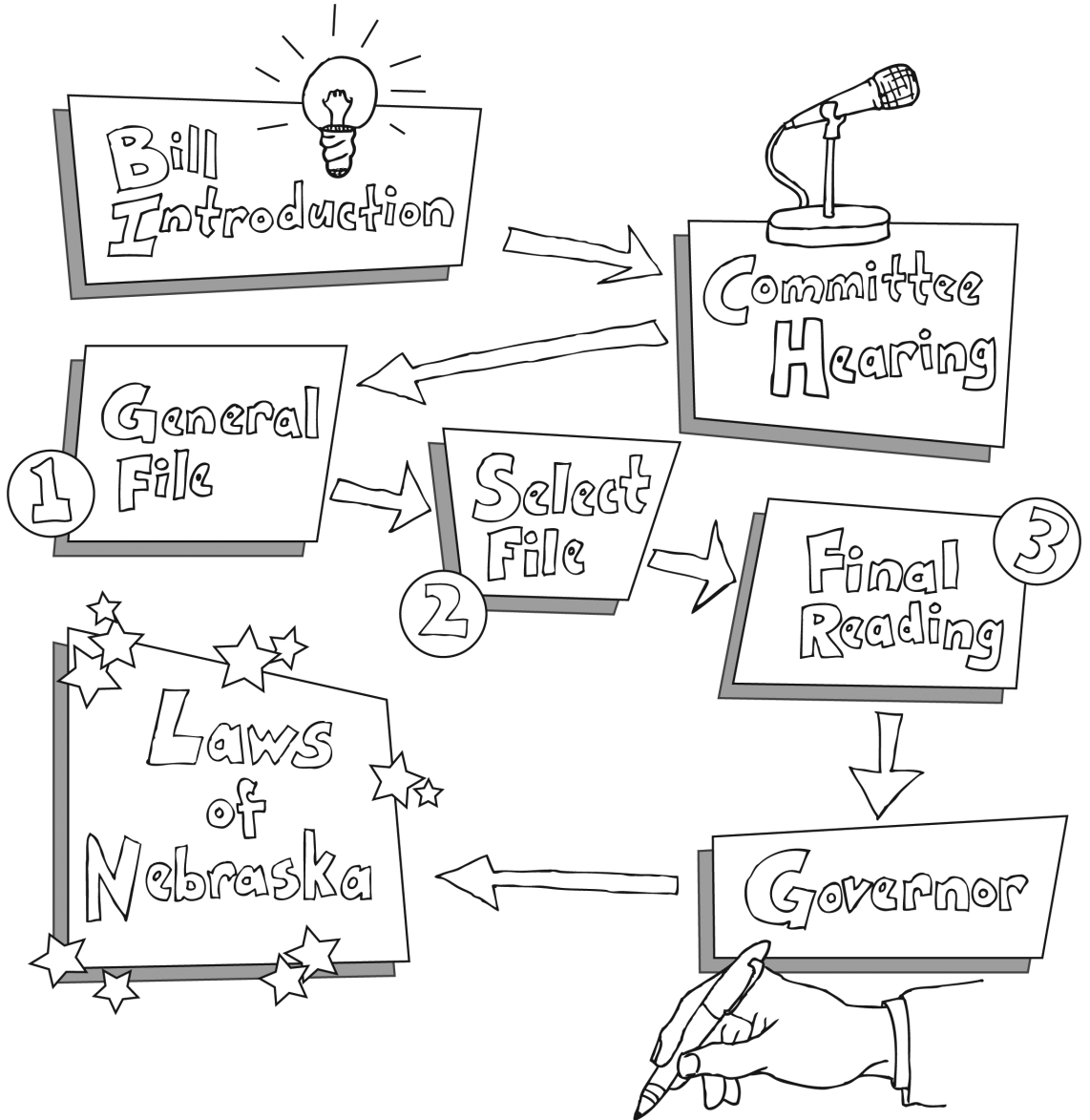


District 48  
Sen. John Harms  
Scottsbluff  
Retired College  
President



District 49  
Sen. LeRoy Loudon  
Ellsworth  
Rancher

# How a Bill Becomes a Law



## Lawmaking in the Unicameral

The lawmaking process in Nebraska officially begins when a senator introduces a bill, or a proposed law, into the Legislature. But the lawmaking process actually begins much earlier — when a senator develops ideas for new laws. An idea for a new law may be suggested by anyone: concerned citizens (including students!), special interest groups, state agencies or the governor. The idea must be introduced by a senator to be formally considered by the Legislature. Committees debate and propose amendments to bills, and the full Legislature has an opportunity to debate each bill at least two times before its final passage. Senators may propose amendments to alter the bill at each stage of debate.

Here are the steps a bill must take before becoming a Nebraska state law:

### 1) Research — — — — — ➤ 2) Drafting — — — — —

First, a senator and his or her staff research a problem and study ways it could be solved. A senator may introduce a bill to create a new law, or to get rid of or change an existing law. Research is done during the period between sessions called the interim. During this time, legislative committees study a variety of issues that have been identified by the Legislature.

A senator brings his or her idea for a new law to a bill drafter, who works with the senator to transform the idea into the proper legal form for a bill. Unlike some states, bills introduced in Nebraska may contain only one subject.

### 3) Introduction ← — — — — —

Most bills are introduced during the first 10 days of the legislative session, which begins each January. In order to introduce a bill, a senator files it with the Clerk of the Legislature. The Clerk reads the title of the bill into the record, assigns it a number and prints copies of it for public and legislative use.

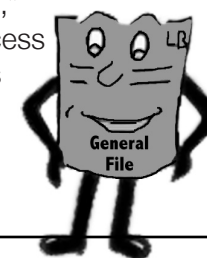
### 4) Committee Hearing — — — ➤ 5) General File — — — — —

After a bill is introduced, it is sent to a committee. The committee holds a **public hearing**, in which citizens have a chance to express their opinions about the bill to committee members. Their comments are recorded, transcribed and become part of the official committee record.

After the public hearing, the committee members consider whether they think the bill would make a good law. If they do, they advance the bill to the next step in the lawmaking process. If they don't, they **indefinitely postpone** the bill. They also can **take no action** on the bill, which also would cause it to die. The committee also can suggest changes to the bill, called **amendments**, and then advance the bill to the next stage.

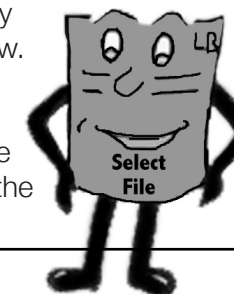
If the committee advances a bill, it goes to the **general file stage**. **General file is the first time the full Legislature has the opportunity to debate and vote on a bill.** Senators also can propose amendments they think will make a bill better. It takes a majority vote of the Legislature (25 votes) to adopt amendments and to move a bill from general file to the next stage of consideration.

Before a bill is sent to the next stage, it goes through **enrollment and review**. Commonly referred to as “E&R,” enrollment and review is a process in which adopted amendments are combined with the original bill, and the bill is checked for technical and grammatical accuracy.



### 6) Select File — — — — —

**Select file is the second time the full Legislature debates and votes on a bill.** This step allows senators another opportunity to amend, compromise and reflect on the proposed law. In select file, a bill may be indefinitely postponed or advanced to the next stage. If senators vote to advance a bill from select file, it is again sent to E&R to be rechecked. The bill is then reprinted and advanced to the next stage.



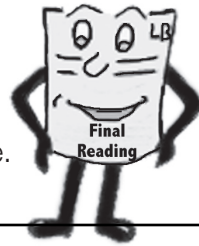


## 7) Final Reading

**Final Reading is the third and last time a bill is considered by the entire Legislature.** The Nebraska Constitution requires that before a bill's final passage, the entire bill must be read aloud by the Clerk of the Legislature. This happens unless three-fifths of the Legislature (30 members) votes not to do so.

A bill may not be amended or debated during the final reading stage, but it may be returned to select file to be amended.

Usually, it only takes a majority vote (25 senators) for a bill to be passed in final reading. However, some special bills need more votes to pass the final reading stage. A proposed **constitutional amendment** requires a three-fifths vote (30 senators) to place it on the general election ballot in November and a four-fifths vote (40 senators) to place it on a primary or special election ballot. A bill with an **emergency clause** requires a vote of two-thirds (33 senators) of the Legislature. We'll learn more about the emergency clause later.



## ➤ 8) Governor — — — — — ➤ 9) Effective Date

After the Legislature passes a bill in the final reading stage, it goes to the governor for his or her approval. The governor has five days, excluding Sundays, to decide what to do with a bill. If the governor signs a bill or declines to act on it, the bill becomes a state law. The governor may veto a bill, and can **line-item veto**, or strike specific budget items.

The Legislature may **override** a governor's veto, although it takes a vote of 30 senators to do so.

Most bills passed and approved by the governor become law three calendar months after the Legislature adjourns for the year. However, bills may take effect before that date if they contain the emergency clause. An **emergency clause** allows a bill or a portion of a bill to take effect immediately after the governor signs it or after the Legislature overrides the governor's veto.

# Committees

As you just learned, one of the initial stages of the lawmaking process in Nebraska involves the work of the Legislature's committees. Think of committees as "expert groups" that allow senators to split up to work on bills that affect things they care about the most.

After a bill is introduced, the Legislature's Reference Committee decides which one of the 14 standing committees will receive the bill.

## Committee

## Policy Area

- » **Agriculture** ..... farming, ranching
- » **Appropriations** ..... state budget
- » **Banking, Commerce & Insurance** ..... banking regulations, corporation laws, insurance standards
- » **Business & Labor** ..... workplace safety, worker's compensation
- » **Education** ..... state aid to schools, testing standards
- » **General Affairs** ..... cemetery laws, library laws
- » **Government, Military & Veterans Affairs** ..... election laws, redistricting
- » **Health & Human Services** ..... hospital laws, welfare
- » **Judiciary** ..... criminal laws, probation
- » **Natural Resources** ..... water rights, hunting
- » **Nebraska Retirement Systems** ..... state employee retirement
- » **Revenue** ..... taxes
- » **Transportation & Telecommunications** ..... roads, phones, railroads
- » **Urban Affairs** ..... organization of cities, housing authority

## Exercise:

If you were a Nebraska senator, on which committees would you want to serve?



# Write Your Senator

As a citizen, you may contact your state senator about laws being considered by the Legislature, laws already in place or an idea for a new law. One of the best ways to communicate your ideas or concerns is to write your senator a letter. This guide includes a postcard that you can use to correspond with your senator.

Write your senator's name, district number and home address on the front of the postcard below. Then write your message on the back. Tear the postcard out of the book, place a stamp on it, and drop it in the mailbox.

If you would rather send an e-mail, go to [www.nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator\\_list.php](http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_list.php) and select your senator from the list.

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

District # \_\_\_\_\_

State Capitol

Lincoln, NE 68509

Insert  
postage  
here.

# Legislative Terms

**Amendment** - a proposal offered to a legislative bill that changes its original intent or language.

**Bill** - the document that contains a proposed law, referred to as a legislative bill (LB).

**Clerk of the Legislature** - an officer of the Legislature who handles all administrative functions related to legislative business. Positioned at the front of the legislative chamber while the Legislature conducts business, the clerk records activity and counts votes on issues.

**Committee** - a panel of senators that makes preliminary decisions about legislation or other issues and reports its findings to the entire legislative body.

**Committee Chairperson** - a senator chosen to direct the activities of a committee. Committee chairpersons normally are elected every two years by a vote of the entire legislative body.

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,      Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Constitution** - a document that states the basic principles and laws of the state, determines the powers and duties of government and guarantees certain rights to Nebraska citizens.

**Constitutional Amendment** - similar to a legislative bill, a constitutional amendment is a proposal to change the state’s constitution that must be approved by a vote of citizens.

**Final Reading** - the final voting stage of a bill or constitutional amendment during which the document may be read in its entirety by the Clerk of the Legislature.

**General File** - the first debating and voting stage of a legislative bill or constitutional amendment by the entire legislative body. Bills on general file may be amended, returned to committee, indefinitely postponed or advanced to select file.

**Hearing, Committee Hearing or Public Hearing** - a scheduled meeting of a committee at which the public has an opportunity to voice its opinion about proposed legislation.

**Indefinitely Postponed** - refers to when a bill is killed, which means no further action on the measure is expected.

**President** - another name for the lieutenant governor, who normally presides over legislative floor debate.

**Select File** - the second debating and voting stage for a bill or constitutional amendment by the entire legislature. Bills on select file may be amended, returned to committee, indefinitely postponed or advanced to final reading.

**Speaker** - a senator who is elected by the other members of the Legislature to handle administrative functions such as setting the daily agenda of floor activity and scheduling work days for legislative sessions.

**Unicameral** - name given to a one-house legislature, as opposed to a legislature that is divided into a house and a senate.

**Veto** - return of a bill by the governor to the Legislature without his or her signature, usually accompanied by an explanation as to why the governor thinks the bill should not become law. The Legislature must vote to override a veto within five legislative days after the governor returns the bill.

# Word Search

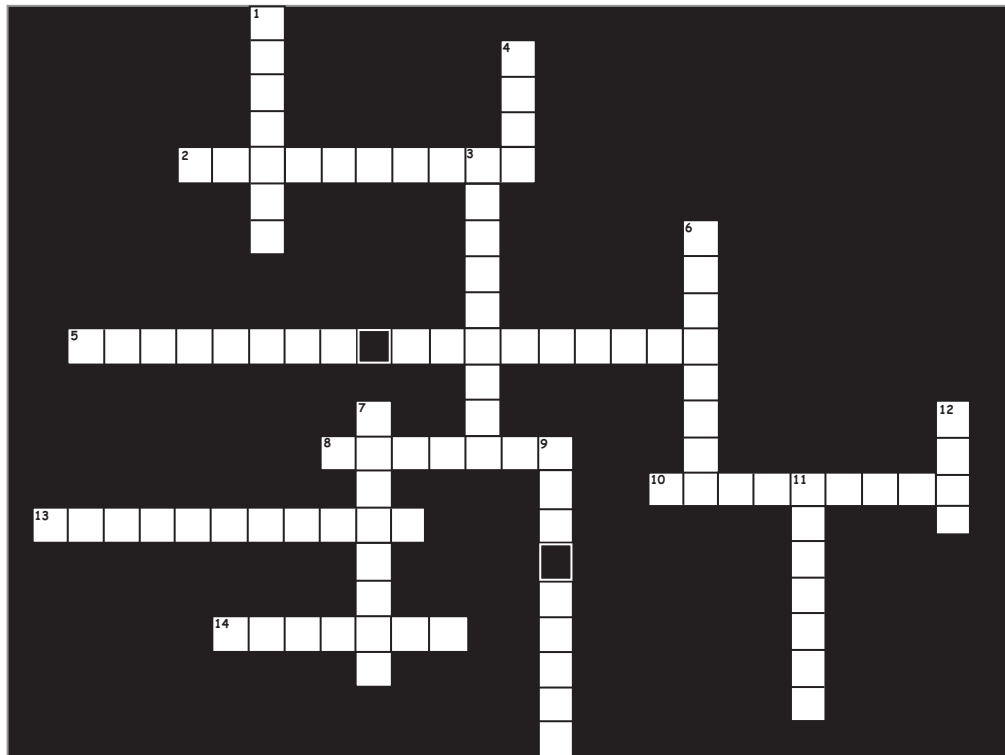
Search for these state government words. They may appear in all directions: forward, backward, up, down, or diagonally. Find each word and draw a circle around it.

Amendment  
Chamber  
Constitution  
Floor  
Governor  
Hearing  
Introducer  
Override  
Page  
Speaker

R	C	K	J	E	D	H	Q	F	G	O	M
L	E	H	O	W	P	M	B	I	U	R	A
U	P	W	A	M	E	N	D	M	E	N	T
E	G	N	R	M	T	S	I	V	E	Z	X
D	Y	R	F	O	B	A	N	S	C	B	I
S	P	A	N	Q	I	E	T	A	Y	K	N
A	H	W	C	X	L	F	R	M	T	O	G
B	I	O	R	C	V	B	O	S	I	V	A
T	R	Z	E	A	R	H	D	T	E	E	B
V	U	Y	K	B	O	M	U	J	Y	R	W
X	E	G	A	P	W	T	C	I	K	R	E
R	C	O	E	A	I	V	E	B	X	I	T
S	P	I	P	T	Q	X	R	U	H	D	S
J	L	W	S	V	A	Z	I	K	C	E	A
E	G	N	I	R	A	E	H	B	F	V	H
M	O	T	Y	H	M	O	F	L	O	O	R
C	Y	K	G	O	V	E	R	N	O	R	E

The answer key for this exercise can be found at [www.nebraskalegislature.gov/about/pubs.php](http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/about/pubs.php)

# Crossword



## Down

1. Committee meeting where the public can give opinions on a bill.
3. May be proposed to change the bill at each stage of debate.
4. A proposed law.
6. The person who has executive power of the state and signs bills into law.
7. The name of our state.
9. Nickname given to the sergeant-at-arms and his or her assistants.
11. Period between regular legislative sessions.
12. Governor rejects a bill.

## Across

2. A one-house legislature.
5. One of 14 to which bills are referred.
8. Represents one district.
10. Also the lieutenant governor.
13. Elected body of persons with the power to make and change laws.
14. Officer of legislature who prepares daily agenda and presides in absence of the lieutenant governor.

The answer key for this exercise can be found at [www.nebraskalegislature.gov/about/pubs.php](http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/about/pubs.php)

# Matching

Match the following terms on the left with the definitions on the right.

**Unicameral**

How old you have to be to become a state senator

**President**

Commonly known as “red coats” because they wear red jackets; these people are responsible for security in hearings and the legislative chamber

**49**

A permanent committee of the Legislature that holds regularly scheduled hearings to consider bills assigned to it

**Sergeants-at-Arms**

As the lieutenant governor, the role of this person is to preside over the Legislature

**Select File**

The length of a senator’s term of office

**Standing Committee**

The number of senators in the Nebraska Legislature

**Indefinitely Postponed**

The first debating and voting stage for a legislative bill or constitutional amendment by the entire legislative body

**General File**

The final voting stage of a bill during which a bill may be read in its entirety by the Clerk of the Legislature

**21**

Means one house

**Final Reading**

What happens to a bill when it is indefinitely postponed

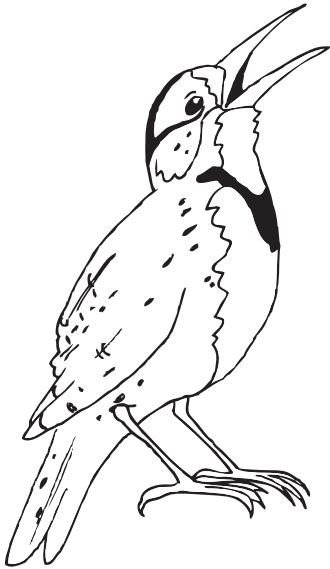
**4 Years**

The second debating and voting stage for a legislative bill or constitutional amendment by the entire legislative body

The answer key for this exercise can be found at [www.nebraskalegislature.gov/about/pubs.php](http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/about/pubs.php)

# State Symbols

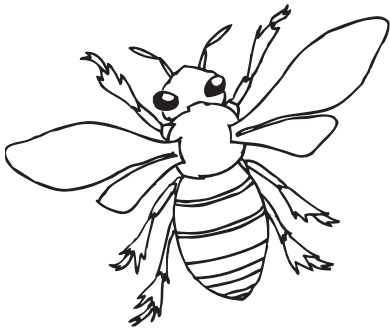
Color and identify Nebraska’s state symbols. An answer key is at the bottom of the page.



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Meadowlark 2. Goldenrod 3. Honey bee 4. White-tailed deer

# Compromise

Bills can be complicated, some totaling over 1,000 pages! A single bill can propose several ideas for changing law, and many senators may not agree with each of the proposed changes. Other senators may think they have a better way to accomplish the same goal. In order for a senator to be successful, he or she must be able to work well with the other 48 senators. This often requires the ability to compromise, or agree to some things you may dislike in order to get some things you really want.

Complete the exercise below to learn more about the value of compromise.

## Exercise:

- 1) If your class were to share a pizza, what kind would you get? Write down your favorite pizza, including the toppings you prefer.
- 2) As a class, debate what type of pizza the class should select. Take individual turns to explain why your pizza proposal is best.
- 3) Vote on your pizza proposals. Take the three proposals with the most votes and allow students to debate which one of the three should be picked. Allow time for students to make compromises among themselves, then take a final vote.
- 4) Discuss as a class why compromise was difficult to achieve. What are the benefits of compromise?



# Visiting the Capitol

One of the best ways to learn more about the Nebraska Legislature is to visit the Nebraska State Capitol Building in Lincoln. There are many things that you can do at the Capitol.

## 1) Take a Tour of the Capitol Building

To schedule a tour, call the State Capitol Tours Office at (402) 471-0448 or visit the tour office, which is located near the north entrance on the 2nd floor of the Capitol.

## 2) Watch Floor Debate

If the Legislature is in session, you can watch senators debate from a balcony in the Norris Chamber. For information regarding the schedule of the Legislature, log on to [NebraskaLegislature.gov](http://NebraskaLegislature.gov).

## 3) Attend a Committee Hearing

During session, the Legislature holds numerous committee hearings that are open to the public. Check the public hearing schedule posted on [NebraskaLegislature.gov](http://NebraskaLegislature.gov).

## 4) Meet Your Senator

Many senators will gladly meet with students from their district. Be sure to contact your senator in advance of your visit. Contact information for each senator can be found on [NebraskaLegislature.gov](http://NebraskaLegislature.gov).

## 5) Visit the Observation Deck

The Observation Deck on the 14th floor level is open to visitors during public hours as weather permits.

## 6) See the Nebraska Hall of Fame

Bronze busts of the Nebraska Hall of Fame members are located on the 2nd floor of the Capitol.

## 7) View Photos of State Senators

Photos of state senators throughout history are displayed in the west hallway of the 1st floor.

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